

Message Text

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TAGS: FAO, IFAD, OCON, EAGR, UN

SUBJECT: IFAD/ECOSOC AGREEMENT

REF: ROME 11264

1. AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL, WE ARE TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING
POSITION PAPER ORIGINALLY PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
FOURTH IFAD PREPCOM FOR USE BY OUR ECOSOC DELEGATION
CONCERNING DRAFT RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UN
AND IFAD (AGENDA ITEM 26, 63RD SESSION OF ECOSOC).

2. BEGIN POSITION PAPER:

UNITED STATES DELEGATION UNCLASSIFIED
ECOSOC - 63RD SESSION JULY 1, 1977
JULY 6 - AUGUST 5, 1977
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GENEVA

DRAFT RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UN AND IFAD
(AGENDA ITEM 26)

PROBLEM

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PREPCOM APPROVED A DRAFT RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN IFAD AND THE UN. AN ECOSOC COMMITTEE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES MET APRIL 14-MAY 11 AND, IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IFAD BUREAU, PROPOSED THE DRAFT SET OUT IN IFAD/PC/2.31. THE COMMISSION MUST NOW REVIEW THE REVISED TEXT PRIOR TO ITS SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL. THE TEXT ALSO MUST STILL BE APPROVED BY THE ECOSOC AND UNGA.

U.S. POSITION

1. THE DELEGATION SHOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CURRENT PROPOSED TEXT AND SHOULD SEEK TO PREVENT REVISION. THE TEXT WAS AGREED TO IN NEW YORK BY THE ECOSOC NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE AND THE IFAD BUREAU AND IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL OR PRODUCTIVE TO SEEK FURTHER CHANGES.

2. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY FELT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO ACCEPT ARTICLE IX ON PERSONNEL, THE DELEGATION SHOULD SUPPORT THIS ARTICLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT REFLECTS THE USG'S POSITION THAT IFAD SHOULD CONSIDER PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PRACTICES AS CLOSE TO THOSE OF THE UN "COMMON SYSTEM" AS PRACTICAL AND EFFICIENT.

3. ALGERIA WISHED TO INCLUDE IN ARTICLE XI REFERENCE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CHAPTERS IX, X, AND XI OF THE CHARTER. THESE PERTAIN TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AND NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. SUCH REFERENCES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN THE RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT SINCE THESE ARE AREAS OUTSIDE THE FUND'S SCOPE (AS SET OUT BY THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT).

DISCUSSION

THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED IN THE ECOSOC DELIBERATIONS (ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES ON THE COMMITTEE ARE LISTED IN PARA 3 OF ANNEX 1 OF PC/L.31).

IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL FOR THE IFAD PREPCOM TO REOPEN DEBATE ON THIS MATTER. THE NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK WERE QUITE EXTENDED, AND THE AGREEMENT FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE REFLECTS A NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIVE COMPROMISES ON BEHALF OF BOTH THE ECOSOC (PARTICULARLY THE G-77 IN ECOSOC) AND IFAD. ALTHOUGH THE 62ND SESSION OF ECOSOC ONLY NOTED THE REPORT (VERSUS ADOPTED), THE DEBATE IN PLENARY SUGGESTS THAT IF THE IFAD PREPCOM WILL ADOPT THIS TEXT WITHOUT CHANGES, THE ECOSOC TOO WOULD ADOPT THE REPORT AT ITS 63RD SESSION (BEGINNING JULY 6).

LAST YEAR THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DEBATE AS TO WHETHER IFAD WOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF THE UN, CLOSELY TIED TO IT, OR A SPECIALIZED AGENCY. ARTICLE 8 OF THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT SPECIALIZED AGENCY STATUS WAS THE PREFERENCE OF IFAD'S FOUNDERS. THE DRAFT TEXT SUBMITTED TO ECOSOC BY THE PREPCOM, ALTHOUGH IT DID AN ADMIRABLE JOB OF ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF IFAD AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY, IN RETROSPECT, DID VERY LITTLE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES LAID DOWN IN THE UN CHARTER. THE TEXT AGREED TO IN NEW YORK BY THE ECOSOC COMMITTEE ON NEGOTIATIONS AND THE IFAD BUREAU DOES NOT SACRIFICE ANY OF IFAD'S ESSENTIAL INDEPENDENCE IN ITS FINANCIAL OPERATIONS. IT DOES, HOWEVER, REFLECT MORE

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ACCURATELY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SET OUT BY THE UN CHARTER AND THE UNGA (I.E., THAT ECOSOC SHOULD ACT AS A FOCAL POINT FOR DISCUSSION ON OVERALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

IN THE END, IFAD'S SUCCESS OR FAILURE DEPENDS NOT ON ITS AGREEMENTS WITH ANOTHER AGENCY, BUT INSTEAD ON THE COMMITMENT OF THE IFAD MEMBERSHIP TO ENSURING THAT IFAD WILL FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ENTIRELY ON THE MEANS TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. VANCE

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Disposition Event:
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